

## Fix-A-Leak: Toilet Check

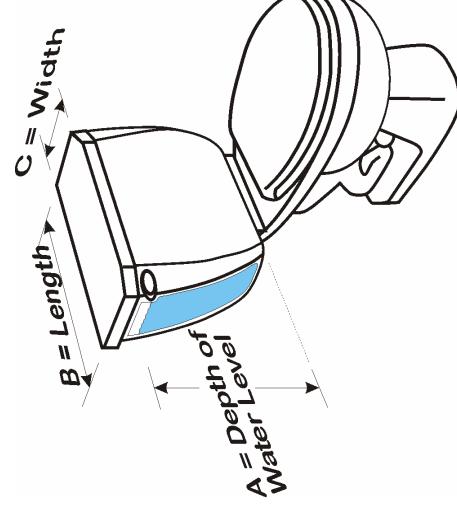


- Toilets are a prime source of leaks within the homes, and can account for up to 30 per cent of indoor domestic water usage.
- Many toilets have been found to use more water than the manufacturer's rating, over time. Maintain your toilets' inner plumbing mechanisms to ensure that they are functioning as efficiently as possible.
- The most common toilet leak is due to the flapper. Test it by placing dye tablets (or food coloring) in the toilet tank. Wait fifteen minutes and check to see if there is any dye in the toilet's bowl. If so, then you have a leaky flapper. The life of a flapper isn't very long, and may need to be replaced often. Check the flapper routinely and replace when there are signs of a leak.
- Some signs of a leak include: needing to jiggle the handle, filling water noises when it is not in use, rippling water in the bowl after it has filled.

**Gallons Per Flush (GPF):** To determine the gallons per flush you will need:

- Tape Measure
- Pencil & Paper
- Calculator

First, take the three measurements below:



- Depth of the Water Level** = amount of water used from one flush. If all the water is emptied from the tank in one flush then measure from the bottom of the tank to the water line. If not, then first measure the depth of the water level from the bottom of the tank to the water line, mark this with a pencil. Then turn off the water supply to the toilet and flush. Measure the depth from the previously marked water line to the current water level (what remains in the tank). Then calculate the change in water levels before and after one flush. Example: If the first measurement was 10 inches and the second was 3 inches then: Flush Depth: 10-3= 7 inches
- Length** (inside the tank, left to right)
- Width** (inside the tank, front to back)

Once all three measurements are taken, determine your toilet's gallons per flush (GPF) with the following equation:

$$\boxed{\text{GPF} = (\text{Length} \times \text{Width} \times \text{Water Depth}) / 231}$$

Multiply all measurements together and then divide by 231. This will give you the gallons per flush (gpf).